

**Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council Meeting**  
**Friday, January 29, 2016**  
**Division of Milwaukee child Protective Services**  
**635 N. 26 St.**  
**MINUTES**  
**Page 1 of 4**

**Members Present**

State Senator Nikiya Harris Dodd, Mallory O'Brien, State Representative LaTonya Johnson, State Representative Jessie Rodriguez, State Senator Alberta Darling, Christine Holmes, Susan Gadacz, Libby Mueller, Linda Davis, Judge Mary Triggiano

**Meeting Notice**

First, the notice of the meeting was published in the Monday, January 25, 2016 edition of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Second, the notice was faxed to the newspaper of record for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Journal, on Tuesday, January 26, 2016. Finally, the notice was emailed to the Partnership Council stakeholders including any media who had requested such notice on Thursday, January 21, 2016. This satisfies the requirements for notice under Wis. Stat. 19.84(1)(b).

**Minutes**

Minutes from September and November, 2015 meetings approved as read.

**“Trauma-Informed Care for Very Young Children in Poverty Project (TIC-YC)” Grant Application Overview, Partnership Council Letter of Support Request**

Penfield Children's Center has applied for a two million dollar SAMSHA grant to serve children under the age of six in a trauma-focused treatment program.

Christine Holmes explained the project and provided a letter of support to the Partnership Council on behalf of Penfield's grant request. The letter was read to the Council by Linda Davis. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the letter of support for Penfield.

**Justice for Children Act and Child Endangerment Task Force Overview, Jill Karofsky**

Jill Karofsky presented an overview of new strategies to deal with child abusers that are being put into place by the Department of Justice.

The Justice for Children Act provides funds to help improve investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect. Assistant Attorney General, Tom Fallon has been appointed as the Statewide Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor. AAG Fallon will be training other attorneys who prosecute child abusers. DOJ will be hiring a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE).

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**Page 2 of 4**

The Department of Justice initiated the Justice for Children legislation which includes:

Granting victims the right to have a trained victim advocate present during the course of a case.

Allowing law enforcement to charge long-term physical abuse and neglect as a single continuing offense.

Refining the definition of criminal neglect. Defines graduated penalties.

Reporting allegations of abuse/neglect received by agencies to law enforcement within a defined time frame.

The Department of Justice will be starting a Child Abuse Team. DOJ wants this to be a group that will solve problems using evidence-based information.

**.Ad Hoc Budget Committee**

Partnership Council members are asked to let Linda Davis know if they are interested in being part of the Ad Hoc Budget committee. Recommendations made by this Committee will need to be submitted to the Department by early summer.

**Critical Incident Committee**

There are four new cases for the next meeting. There are no current recommendations.

**Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services Interim Director's Report, Mary Pat Bohn**

The Division is scheduling interviews for the Quality Operations Bureau Director and Program and Policy Chief.

Initial Assessment Specialist recruitment continues to be ongoing. Tara Muender, DMCPs Professional Development Program Manager, is working with interns. DMCPs recently interviewed 100 IAS candidates with 27 of those moving on to second interviews. Question was raised as to why it appears to be so hard for some individuals to get through the interview process. Current process for candidates is to take the test and go through the interview process. When this part of the process is complete, resumes are checked. Currently, we are not able to do resume checks until candidate has been interviewed. Since becoming a Division, DMCPs has increased the frequency of recruitment and made it a goal to hire every two months.

**DCF Updates, Eloise Anderson**

Youth Aids administration and oversight responsibility for the community-based juvenile justice system has transferred from the Department of Corrections (DOC) to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Culvers is partnering with DCF to provide employment for foster kids.

We are still in the process of finding a Director for DMCPs. Secretary Anderson will keep the Partnership Council informed.

**Legislation and Other Updates, Fredi Bove**

Fredi Bove acknowledged the support of the Partnership Council members and legislators with getting child welfare legislation passed.

Child Welfare Legislation needed to comply with new federal requirements:

AB406/SB309 - Requires the use of the “reasonable and prudent parenting” standard for making decisions concerning the participation of a child placed in out-of-home care in age or developmentally appropriate activities and strengthens permanency planning of a child 14 years of age or older.

AB407/SB308 - Provides a simplified process for appointment of a successor guardian in subsidized guardianship cases.

AB737/SB618 - Requires child welfare agencies to screen in and investigate all allegations of children alleged to be victims of sex trafficking, including cases where the alleged maltreater is a non-caregiver.

Concern was voiced about where sex trafficking victims go after they are found. We also need to start looking at the issue of hypersexualized kids.

AB745- Strengthens tools and procedures for finding children missing from out-of-home care by requiring child welfare agencies to maintain photos of children in out-of-home care and provide information and photo of missing children to local law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Law enforcement needs to be notified within eight hours when children/youth are missing.

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**Page 4 of 4**

Department-initiated bills

AB48/SB386 - Provides access to a child's educational records to the child's child welfare worker as permitted through Federal Uninterrupted Scholars Act.

AB284/SB204 - Extends to child welfare or juvenile justice workers the same criminal battery penalties currently applicable to law enforcement, fire fighters, and probation and parole officers.

AB339/SB253 – Expands the eligibility criteria for subsidized guardianship to a person who develops a familial relationship with a child or the child's family during the child's placement in out-of-home care.

AB/282/SB202 – Establishes a right to appeal a denial of kinship care payments through the state administrative hearing process.

AB513/SB386 – Modifies the adoption search policies to include providing adult adoptees under certain circumstances access to information about birth parents that are deceased.

**New State Human Trafficking Task Force**

Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson and Attorney General Brad Schimel have launched a statewide multidisciplinary Human Trafficking Task Force. The first task force meeting occurred in early December 2015. The task force will be overseeing various workgroups that will be focusing on specific aspects of the plan and also be looking at going after the “demand” side of sex trafficking. Information about the Task Force is available on the website.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Zellner

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**Page 5 of 4**